THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) There are five Divisions functioning in the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) namely Kala Nidhi, Kala Kosh, Janpada Sampada, Kala Darshan and Sutradhara. Except Sutradhara and the Kala Nidhi Division, the other Divisions are headed by reputed and internationally acclaimed scholars in their respective fields. The Heads of these Divisions are normally of Professors rank.

(b) Recently, professors have been appointed in Kala Kosha, Janpada Sampada, and Kala Darshna Divisions. Regarding Kala Nidhi, its subdivisions *viz.*, Cultural Archives, Reference Library and Media Production are looked after by officers who have specialized qualifications in their respective fields. IGNCA has not considered it necessary to appoint a Professor to Head Kala Nidhi division so far.

(c) The Heads of two Divisions namely Kala Kosha and Janpada Sampada have left the organization after completion of their contractural terms and have not been removed by IGNCA.

(d) As at part (b) above.

Boost to tourism industry

1466. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has urged the Prime Minister to take immediate steps to give a boost to the tourism;

(b) if so, whether one of the main issues was restoring LTC facility to Government employees;

(c) whether any concrete proposal in this regard has been worked out;

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to give a boost to the tourism in view of slump from 11th September, 2001 attack; and

(e) to what extent these steps have improved tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Conference of Chief Minister's and Tourism Ministers' on 30th October 2001. Various issues

relating to development and promotion of tourism in the country including to Draft of the Tourism Policy were discussed. Based on the discussions, the new Tourism Policy 2002 has been announced in the Parliament.

(b) and (c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India had taken the matter with the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions for restoration of LTC facility to the Government employees so as to boost domestic tourism in the country.

(d) In order to boost tourism in the country the following steps have been initiated:—

Propagating India as a safe and secure destination.

Stepping-up marketing in the western and Northern world.

Breaking new ground in the East and South, particularly with regard to China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and Australia.

Positioning and maintaining tourism developement as a national priority activity.

Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination.

Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements.

Creating of world class infrastructure.

Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes.

Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism and

Attention to civilizational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration and good governance and also of social and cultural values.

(e) The international tourist flow in the country has not improved after the September, 11 incident. There has been a decline of 17.3 per cent during September 2001 to June 2002 as compared to the corresponding period of previous years.